FROM THE HIGHLY ACCLAIMED GLOBAL BEST-SELLER
RIZ AHMED
KATE HUDSON
LIEV SCHREIBER
KIEFER SUTHERLAND
OM PURI
THE RELUCTANT FUNDAMENTALIST
A NEW THRILLER FROM MIRA NAIR
"TENSE, THOUGHTFUL AND TRULY INTERNATIONAL IN BREADTH AND DEPTH."
-RICHARD CORLISS, TIME MAGAZINE
IFC FILMS AND DOHA FILM INSTITUTE PRESENT A MIRABAI FILMS AND CINE MOSAIC PRODUCTION A MIRA NAIR FILM
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BASED ON THE NOVEL BY MOHSIN HAMID SCREEN STORY BY MOHSIN HAMID & AMI BOGHANI SCREENPLAY BY WILLIAM WHEELER DIRECTED BY MIRA NAIR
R RESTRICTED
LANGUAGE, SOME VIOLENCE AND BRIEF SEXUALITY
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JAIN (DEEMED–TO-BE) UNIVERSITY

School of Humanities and Social Sciences
Palace Road, Bangalore

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Course: Diasporic Literature

Dissertation Topic: The Reluctant Fundamentalist: In search of an identity in an Islamophobic world

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DECLARATION

This dissertation entitled "The dilemma of accepting the "Other" in the novel *The Reluctant Fundamentalist"* was conducted under the supervision of Dr.Yogananda Rao, professor in English department of Jain University, School of Humanities and Social Sciences, Palace Road, Bangalore.

We declare that the dissertation is the result of our own independent work, except where due to reference is made.

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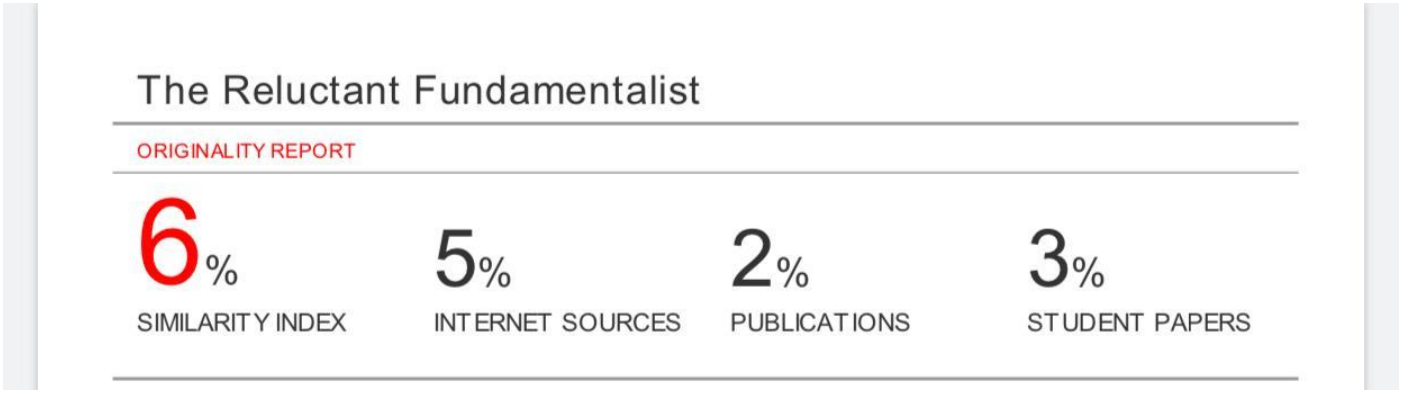

The Reluctant Fundamentalist

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ABSTRACT

The term 'Diaspora' cuts across various disciplines such as Sociology, Cultural studies and Political science. As it raises the questions of assimilation, loss identity, nostalgia, it is one of the sociological concepts which reflects in today's literature which focuses on the internal and external conflicts in an Alien land. As human beings are described as social animals, its quite obvious that its been reflected in the literature as basic theme of human being, as his/her thoughts, feelings, beliefs and faith. Literature deals with the number of sociological concepts, movements, aesthetically.

This paper is an attempt to examine the expatriate sensibility in which the playwright deploys it in his plays with special reference to *The Reluctant Fundamentalist* which was shortlisted for the Man Booker Prize 2007. The paper will explore how he blends such issues as cultural dilemma,Quest for identity,multiculturalism and Universal aspects of human existences.Mohsin Hashmi is a Pakistani English Novelist who wrote three novels *Moth Smoke*(2000) , The *Reluctant Fundamentalist* (2007) and *Get Filthy Rich In rising Asia* (2013).He was born in Lahore Pakistan in 1971. He spent part of his life in California and that provides us with a glimpse of post 9/11 American and a new identity imposed on him by the East and the West notion of conflict.

The plot which was built masterfully,controlled irony and suspense at Lahore café of Old Anarkali shop where Chanqez unfolds his life story to an unnamed American Stranger. Changez reminiscences in detail his experiences of living in the United State for a period of time. Where Changez excels at Princeton University and becomes "immediately a New Yorker" after being recruited as an analyst under the prestigious valuation firm, Underwood Samson meanwhile he gets involved in a relationship with a fellow graduate named Erica. After the collapse of World Trade Centre Towers he realizes the world has changed for him and he had to face prejudices and discrimination as routine way of life while on the other hand Erica was equally traumatized by the event of 9/11 attack in a different way and she constantly longs for her boyfriend Chris who we later find out that he passed away.

Changez feels uncomfortable in New York after 9/11, He decides to travels to Pakistan to meet his family and he is also unhappy with United States for supporting India against his home. And at the same time he does not feel much attached with Pakistan nor feel very proud to be a Pakistani himself. Changez realizes that he is indirectly harming Pakistan by working in Underwood Samaon then he returns to New York in the middle of all the chaos where Jim(another character in the novel) fires him. He then returns to Pakistan and he gives lectures at a university and supports anti American Demonstrations and also insists that he would never encourage violence.

As Changez narrates the story to the stranger who feels uncomfortable and even had a gun with him, Changez assures him that there is no danger and walks back to the café with the stranger.

Keywords: Act of terrorism, American dream, Assimilation, Diaspora, East and West conflict and loss of Identity.

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CHAPTER ONE

INTRODUCTION

1.1 About the author

Mohsin Hamid is a writer and novelist. He was born in Lahore, Pakistan, the characters in his novels moved from his native country and have lived in California, London and new York. Hamid was three years old when his father had enrolled to Ph.D. at Stanford University and they spent nine years in California before moving back to their homeland (Pakistan), Moshin moved to Princeton University at the age of 18 where he studied under the famous American writers, Toni Morrison and Joyce Carole Oates. About the same time he started writing his First novel. Hamid finished his career in 1997 where he graduated from Harvard Law School. His First novel was '*Holy smoke' in 2000.* It was very popular in Pakistan and India. And his second novel was *'The Reluctant Fundamentalist* 'it was published in 2007 and it was been translated in 25 languages. It was also Shortlisted for the Man Booker Prize 2007 and it was made as movie in 2012, in the same year he released the third novel.' *How To Get Filthy Rich In Rising Asia'.* In 2017 he released his novel '*Exist west'* which deals with the migration and being a refugee.

1.2 Background of diaspora

The term "Diaspora" traces back from the ancient Greek Word which means Dispersion (OED), conceived to refer to the scattered population of Jews that were forced into the state of exile from their homelands into the New world of mass immigration, which means less eternal banishment but mostly the migrant people who leave in their homeland and settle in foreign land. Diasporas are the people who voluntarily agrees and moves from a homeland to an alien land. Diaspora can also be understood as the movement that have been to those of a colonized people of a metropolitan centre, so that they could replace the manpower which has been lost by the colonial power. In countries such as Britain and America the population are substantial in minorities of ex-colonial people.

Diasporic literature is distinctively divided into two types of writings. Autobiographical style, which refers to the narration of self.Scholarly approach to study Diaspora. There are certain similar features in these writings, the first characteristic is the attachment with their homeland which reflects in their writings where they undergo major trauma is what we find because they are exposed to plural culture and

hence they find much difficulty in getting acquainted with neither of the cultures. Also generally their writings portrays issues such as Dislocation or Displacement, Alienation, Loneliness, Isolation from the society in which they are currently shifted.

Diaspora writers strive to integrate with a new environment and remains attached to their ancestral customs, culture, tradition, languages and religion. The male narratives tries to explore generally in the Diaspora and migrations discourse which discusses depression in various perspectives. And also tries to focus on sufferings faced by the community of mass migration at the time of displacement. The individual migration is considered to be of personal or because of professional reasons. One of the major issues which is associated to the problem, is the Identity in gender aspects while other issue would be assimilating culture in a host land, and the discrimination of natives in a host land. The concept of "Home" which is very much highlighted in the women writings , since they have flashbacks of their home which could be consider as comfort zone. Later they adopt the culture, language, and tradition of the land in which they have migrated.

All the above mentioned issues are related to Diaspora which becomes the major themes of Diasporic writings in general. Some of the diasporic texts were written by the various Diasporic Writers like Salman Rushdie, V.S Naipaul, Kamal Markandaya, Anita Desai, Bharati Mukherjee,Vikram Seth. Moshin Hamid, a Pakistani writer is one among them. His book, *"The Reluctant Fundamentalist"* is a text which explores the experiences of a Pakistani immigrant who moved and lived in America. The book highlights some of the many issues of Identity Crisis, Alienation, Nostalgia that tries to haunt him in a new environment where the culture and tradition were completely different from his which makes him feel like an alien. Also, the 9/11 attack incident makes him feel inferior in the "promised place" where he also dreamt of living when he was in Pakistan.

Mohsin Hamid was born in Lahore. Acadamic wise, He had a strong base where he attended Princeton University and Harvard law School, worked as a management consultant in New York and London. His first novel was *Moth Smoke (2000*), second one was *The Reluctant Fundamentalist (2007)* where Changez plays the main character. A Pakistani who tries to find the new life and decides to go to America to study then he graduates from Princeton university with the best grade and later works in a financial firm in Underwood Samson, Manhattan as a consultant. He slowly becomes radicalized by American's response to 9/11 attack. The literary style used in the novel is in a form of a monologue. He meets an American stranger in an Old antalkali tea Shop where Changez invites him to tea and then dinner. Changez recalls the story of his journey to America, how he landed there with a scholarship, How he graduated from Princeton and landing with a good job and later comes back to Lahore after he could no longer tolerate the humiliation and indignity.

The novel is narrated briskly. It is in first person narration (Changez) as the reader in the position of the operative.

"*Excuse me, Sir, but May I be of assistance?*" It begins.
"Do not be frightened by my beard: I am a Lover of America".

(Hamid, 2007:1)

It unfolds and gives a clear picture of how something might happen in the conversation between the stranger and the protagonist. Changez fights against his feelings and at a point become indecisive on whether to keep staying in America where he likes the lifestyle and status orreturn back to his country. He was in dilemma because he enjoyed the American lifestyle but could no longer face all the humiliations poured on him. But finally he goes back to Pakistan also because we find that he wanted a stable "Home" and identity where he is accepted for who he is.

1.2 Aims

This paper tries to prove how the main protagonist Changez in *The Reluctant Fundamentalist* by Mohsin lacks a strong identity. He is a victim of false accusation for the fact that he is a muslim. It also aims to analyse the protagonist with relation to a broader perspective where he represents the Muslims as a whole.

1.3 Objectives

This paper will use qualitative data consisting:

- Primary resource *The Reluctant Fundamentalist By Mohsin Hamid (2007)*
-Secondary resource are essays "*Reflections of Exile*" and "*Orientaliam*" by *Edward Said.*
- By exploring the man's inner feelings in the novel "*The Reluctant Fundamentalist*"
- Then the paper will draw the similarities from *Edward Said's Orientalism* and *Reflection of Exile* and conflicts in Hamid's Novel *The Reluctant Fundamentalist*.

1.4 Review of literature

a) Different voices of Mohsin Hamid ; a Study of Narrative Techniques of *Moth Smoke and The Reluctant Fundamentalist.*

In this article we face a different situation in Pakistan taking place. Mohsin Hamid adopted different narrative techniques in his novel. Hamid uses a single person narrative which is a monologue. It is evident because we see that it is mentioned "YOU" here. Further he tries to state that the Pronoun "YOU" can be symbolic by not taking up the responsibility and using it to address other people where he talks about the external problems of other nations such as U.S.A and displays the Christian countries' outlook towards the Muslim especially after the attack of Twin Tower in New York. Then moves on to the second person narrative that can be seen when Pakistan goes beyond the domestic problem, the novelist brings out the connection in the novel by using the monologue technique. Here, he explains monologue techniques as an uninterrupted speech which is directly addressed to the character or the audience. The use of monologue in Hamid's viewpoint reaches the viewer effortlessly, because Hamid's Novel have realistic incidents that adds flavour and the plot takes place in a linear pattern. The article talks about the thematic scheme.

The monologue in the thematic part of the novel is the strategy which is used to show that it is also a dramatic monologue which is common to the stage plays and films but in the case of this novel it is the most striking element which in the course of the monologue it provides the insights of his character and it correlates with essence of the novel. Changez when he communicates with an American he are occasional interruptions which is never heard when it is structured in the novel as one-sided conversation. Hamid puts the readers in American's position. Instead of giving any particular conclusion, the novelist tries to allow the reader to ponder over the attitude and policies of America. The end chapters again come back to Changez who is addressed in the present scene that takes place in a café.

Hamid choose and uses the dramatic monologue. The readers are reminded of how they are only introduced to a one sided story. But the ending chapters talks of how Changez becomes a suspect. Hamid accelerates the story pace by making his characters move in a linear pattern. The narrative technique is the advantage for novelist. Hamid clarifies that he wants his reader to know the external conflicts and what they experience in America through his novel *The Reluctant Fundamentalist*.

RanganiDevang , online journal ELT Voices International Journals for Teachers of English

b**) The East and The West Trust Deficit in Mohsin Hamid's 'The *Reluctant Fundamentalist'***

In this Article, It discusses about the deficit between the east and the west which is the repercussion of 9/11 attack which turns the American Dream into American nightmares, when Changez was in Manila on September 11 he initially thinks that it was a fiction but much later he realizes that it is not a movie but something that happened in reality. Then after we discover that he was indeed pleased to learn about the attack and thought to himself that somebody has brought America "to her knees". Changez narrates the story to a American listener. Changez tells him that he is not a sociopath who does not have feeling towards the

other but rather Changez' reaction of 9/11 attack explores the personal and political side: like how Changez tries to realize about the attacks on American Hegemony where we see that he is sensitive of suffering towards the other. On the other hand, America reshuffled the foreign policy after 9/11 attack and decided a war of terror against all those nations who gave support to any kind of terrorism. The Taliban group refused to hand over Osama Bin laden to U.S.

Changez also complains that America is not being supportive of Pakistan despite the fact that Pakistan gave assistance to America in Afghanistan. And he feels powerless at that point. It became very difficult for Muslims to live in America after 9/11 attack and with this, Changez decides to go back to Pakistan as he came to realize that he no longer wanted to work under America. Then Changez quits his job in Underwood Samson. Even his colleagues were suspicious of him because he suddenly quit his job in the midst of all the works assigned to him.. Even the guards look at him in suspicion when he leaves the office after working hours. Here we see how the west began to create the other and it became so visible in the world's eyes. The concept of creating the "other" can be traced back to the era of colonization which prevailed ever since then.

Ms. UzmaImtia, European Scientific, Journal November.

c) Integration And Alienation in Mohsin Hamid's *The Reluctant Fundamentalist*

In this Article it is trying to show how the situation of aesthetic dread and verbal communication which can be seen as an admirable examples like how the tension of twin polarities of sympathy and alienation can be sustained across narratives voices such as tone, texture and reliability where in this article it is found that the overpowering of voices of Changez it is just a primary character with appears at Lahore café with an unknown stranger. This monologue which starts with a formal and seemingly kind to offer to be an assistance to an American who gradually settles to role of silent interlocutor and whose nationality is brought into the equation in the novel.

When Changez see the Stranger he asked him for his assistance. When the stranger sees him, he was frightened by seeing his beard then Changez replies by saying "*don't be frightened by my looks I love America"* When he meets him he takes him to the tea shop which takes him to a mythic ride of Changez past tells him about his job, his love affair, his travel to America .

This Article mainly focuses on his return to Pakistan and subsequently role as a University lecture of advocate disengagement of America. Also imposes on Integration and alienation are the crux of novel When Changez Integrated to America as an Aspiration which is fused by Individualistic stood out as motivational. This could be seen when he joins to Princeton he walks in public he says he conducts himself as a young prince, generous and carefree.

When Changez inner-directed the narratives mode are clear that he is diligent, hardworking, courteous which is generally accepted. As narrator it is not reliable since in this article

it mentions about the sole voice of Changez where we are compelled to listen , then we are drawn to certain Rhetoric not the questions, the experience and position are focused when he speaks about the interview which was held in underwood Samson to the American listener.

There is continuous parallelism which runs through the tea shop and Changez' past also gives the narrative seamlessly perpetuity. Changez is not a victim of National identity but of multiple conflicts which moves through his life. He may not believe in solitude as we see, but he is not comfortable with it as well. We is unable to move ahead with his life all alone. Changez feeling of alienation is enhanced by the invasion of Afghanistan by America. In the novel we also see when he had to choose between the America And Afghanistan it was very difficult for him. Then this Article talks about the Nostalgia where, nostalgia is something which is suffered by both the two characters Erica and Changez who have been trapped by their past. In the novel Changez draws his nostalgic evocation of his country about his past and his cultural. The narrator builds up his narration in such a way that it gives the reader an impact of losing the sympathy towards Changez and they do not find inconsistency. Changez drops down the corporate systems and moves back to his motherland which makes the reader feel that it's a real thing.

Rupkatha Journal on Interdisciplinary Studies in Humanities.

d) Backlash of 9/11 in Hamid's Novel

This article focus on the 9/11 attack that occurred in United States of America which makes an arguable mark point of pre and post America which shows the tragic attacks that left the Muslims and Islam community to face the consequences.

This article examines how Muslims were treated after 9/11 and how they became victims and suffered during this period which becomes a part of negative media stereotypes. Violence against them includes physical assault, Muslims interrogation in American Society, rejection of citizenship, intolerance against multiculturalism, loss of identity, alienation. From the Muslim perspective, Hamid is trying to portray the psychological and emotional impacts of 9/11 attack on Muslims through his character of Changez ,A Muslim Pakistani who lived in America for few years as an immigrant but the backlash of 9/11 put Changez in a hybrid position. We also find that Changez rejoice seeing the 9/11 news on the news channel but Changez contradict with his commitment to the America Dream that he built for himself and this is clearly manifested.

M Shahida ,International Journal Of Humanities And Cultural Studies, Islam.

e) Rambling Confessional narrative in Mohsin Hamid's Novel *The Reluctant Fundamentalist*

This works in the first person narrative which justifies that subjective interpretation and the

objective dimension. Also on the other hand this Article says it goes in slow moving rambling narrative which discloses the personal trauma which is outside confused and full of violence and the world which opposed torments of the soul the setting is what makes the confession tragic (Noise) at the beginning of the novel. Disturbance of suspicious sudden entry of the American and while we go through the novel there is the interruption which takes place when Changez and the Stranger have the conversation

And there is the personalized 9/11 event which evokes the emotional approach taken by the author and contributes to the sense of reliability, alienation estrangement and relationships with family, community and the society which are the significant feature of the 9/11 attack and the themes of terrorism or irreversible process in the American Society the attack which choose both emotional and empathetic one. The construction of the plot , characters and the identities which raise the different problems and solutions which the author do not depart from the stereotypical counts of the events which can be both victims and the representation of "others" where the readers expectation, demands. Attempts, unsolved questions, emphasized the social, psychological, religious and contributes the long lasting the process of duplicating the universal trauma. the personal dimension of the aftermath includes everlasting in search of one's identity and the meaning of one's life, this article says that Nonlinear and fragmented plot that something rambles the discourse of the novel with memories and emotions and describes the present situation of his country and the world and the binary thinking will still remain estrangement with forces that determines the cross culture and social communication.

1.5 Research question:

What led to the loss of identity and seclusion of the character Changez in the novel *The Reluctant Fundamentalist* by Mohsin Hamid? Does he represent himself or the secluded creed in general?

CHAPTER TWO
RELUCTANT FANDAMENTALIST AS A DIASPORIC TEXT

2.1 CONCEPT OF ORIENTALISM

a) Orientalism in the reluctant fundamentalist

The idea of the 'other' has evolved from the word 'savage' when it comes to the interactions between the orient and the occident and this key factor is where Said's essay 'orientalism' and Mohsin Hamid's the reluctant fundamentalist interview its aspect with classifying what the other stands for.

"*Orientalism is a style of thought based upon an ontological and epistemological made between 'the orient' and 'the occident*'." (Said, 1979: 2).

It is about western fascinating of the orient as 'other'. In this novel '*The Reluctant fundamentalist*' the protagonist, Hamid feels himself as an outsider in an alienated country after 9/11 attack. The house had not changed in my absence.

"I *had changed: I was looking about me with the eyes of foreigner, and not just any foreigner, but that the particular type of entitled*".(Hamid's 2007:141)

Hamid sees himself as other (foreigner) in his own country when he returns back to Pakistan. A socio-political structure where the Pakistani is perpetually posited as the hostile other in an Orientalist way, not just by the American (the west), but also by the protagonist himself (the East). This continued self-peripheral zing of the East / orient is characteristic of Re-Orientalism. Edward said highlighted how the East had long been represented and spoken for by the West, and how the East's identity has therefore been in part imagined and constructed by the west relationally to its own identity. Hamid came to New York in search of identity and he succeeded in his career. But later he began feeling uncomfortable in America because of 9/11 attack. It is important to note that Changez is an upper-class protagonist, western-trained and western-educated, to represent the Pakistani perspective. This too, is typically re-orientalist: while the power of representation may have reverted to the orient, representation never-the-less continues to be manipulated by a very small elite, and cumulatively by those with very strong western connection.

The Occident's fascination with the orient has stemmed not out of a superiority complex but

out of a curiosity towards understanding the other, The orient and hoping to get adequate knowledge about them. When this fascination has been tampered with an incident of national crisis that is been funnelled towards a certain ethnic group (Muslims) then that fascination turns a shade grey and takes the character of negativity and distrust. This novel shows that how Hamid stems from his lack of sense of belonging and from his feeling of problematized identity.

"*But I told her last thing I wanted to do leave town. I didn't want to be alone. The attacks churned up old thought in my head".* (Hamid 2007:91).

He wants to come back to Pakistan because of the attacks in America.

"*If you do well, you'll be rewarded. If you don't, you'll be out of the door*" (Hamid 2007, 39).

Changez does his best to achieve the success. He never thought that he could get a job in Underwood Samson. America always seek help from Orients for their development. At some point Changez began seeing himself as 'a servant of America which is the enemy to his homeland'.

2.2 Reflections of exile

Edward Said in his essay "*Reflection of Exile*" discusses the cruel experiences that an exile undergoes. To him, to be an exile is to be in constant sense of "Estrangement". He also mentions that the experiences of an exile are never pleasant rather it is a terrible experience.
"The *essential sadness can never surmounted".*

a) "*Much of exile's life is taken up with compensating for disorienting loss by creating a new world to rule*". (Said 2002 :144)

The protagonist back home belongs to a middle class but however when he was displaced and moved to a new environment he desperately wants to be a part of working class and seeks for a job. It is to our understanding that he desire to be a part of that society by working among them firstly because of economic stability and secondly this will bring him recognition and give him ways to have a superior status which again in return will facilitate him with power.

Another instance which is found in *The Reluctant Fundamentalist* …… (Hamid 2007: 105)….
He asks Erica to assume he is Chris. Here, we find that he gradually tries to enter her world and in some sense tries to set territories over her by pretending to be someone else. Here we assume that he exhibits the trait of a patriarchal man who wants to be the upper hand and manipulate Erica.

b) "To be rooted," she said is perhaps the most important and least recognized need of the human soul.

Simone Weil (Said 2002: 146)

Through this statement we understand that one becomes completely selfish when one is undergoing the process of exile because he is firstly displaced and secondly to get acquainted in the new environment, he must acquire the skill of surviving hence, the only factor that matters to him is survival.

The Protagonist was born and brought up in Lahore Pakistan but moves to America by choice for professional career purposes. He visit Pakistan but always returns to America. This signifies that when one becomes an exile, he remains an exile even if they return to their homeland because they have been uprooted from their identity back home where the sense of "Home" is absent. Exiles always remain as wanderers.

2.3 Muslim and terrorist

Mostly Muslims immigrated during 1960's and 1970's. They immigrated in search of promising land for have a better life economically. And, they want to escape from the political pressure from their homeland. Many individuals migrate for better employment and career. In the novel the Reluctant Fundamentalist Hamid immigrated to United States to setup his career. Muslims continues immigrant to western countries, and they were considered as second and third generation. Muslims settled in western countries like exile, expatriate, immigrant and refugee.

Islam is one of the most populated religions in this world that presently constitutes 24.1% of the world population. It is believed to gain its origin since the earth was created. There is a long historical background that relates to Islamic culture and civilization which is rooted in the belief of one God ideology. In the initial stages of the beginning of Islam religion, It is believed that they were first devoted to prophet Adam and gradually became devotees of prophet Muhammad and formed the present day Islam religion. According to Muslims, They consider Macca and Madeena as holy religious places that could sanctify them. They often visit these places for *"Hajj" (a belief of worship by Islamic people)* and consider these places to be spiritually cleansed by their God. Culture and Civilization are two factors that make up a society and

religion is binded to it. In the case of Islam, these two came out of *"Quran"* (The words of God) which directed the people to the right path and helped them to choose between right and wrong. To them, Living in the light of Allah and humanity were the most important concerns. Hence, for a long period of time, Islamic people led beautiful lives, enjoyed life and strictly followed their religious beliefs according to how Quran verses were laid down in their holy book. Many were inclined towards this kind of lifestyle and began to convert into Islam which was gradually seen as a threat because of the population they cover. They were found in almost all the parts of the world and this gave birth to *Islam phobia* where any non-Muslim saw Islam in a negative light. However, given the example of the world's famous boxer Muhammad Ali too converted into Islam after he witnessed an incident where all Muslims regardless of their gender, class kept aside their differences and prayed at the masjid. This became an example of humanity which inspired Ali to convert into a Muslim himself.

But with passage of time, the world changed and many horrific incidents took place (terrorism being one of them has now become one of the most unsolved universal problem which is prevailing in present time and it is full-fledged currently). According to the world's understanding, It is Muslims who initiate the activities of terrorism because of the fact that the biggest terrorist group "*ISIS*' consist of only Muslims. However, when we trace back history, at the time of colonialism, The Occident employed the "*Divide and rule*" policy to divide the colonized internally. Similarly, this is seen in the case of terrorism too. The arms and ammunitions used by this kind of terrorist groups are sponsored by Westerners to divide the Muslims but media barely highlights such issues because of the power politics that is in play. One of the most horrific events in the history of the world is the 9/11 attack where a major terrorist group *Al-Qaeda* attacked the twin towers in America. After this incident, Muslims were greatly highlighted in a negative light where they were gradually secluded from the rest of the world. This has become a major block for the Muslim immigrants who wish to move to a new land with hope for new beginnings due to economic reasons or because of all the political and religious pressures which they face in their homeland. Initially, their presence in these new lands was of least concerns to people but as mentioned above, the 9/11 attack drew negative attention towards them.

Through the analysis of reluctant fundamentalist by Mohsin Hamid, He transparently draws the attention towards the Muslim community in American society which abjection the people within the eyes of terrorism and extremism. The protagonist of the novel Changez constantly faces difficulty in the new space for certain reasons, one among which is his identity of being a Muslim. It presents the life of how Changez moves his role from being an insider to getting exposed as an "outsider" in America where he lost his sense of belonging. In fact, He is in search of his homeland from the time he got displaced.

After the attack on the World Trade Centre on September 11, 2001, Changez was always seen as a terrorist in America. The moment he mentions his name, he is seen as a threat to the American society. All Muslims were marked under the white's eyes as inferior and objected. Mohsin Hamid exposed the reality behind Changez' smile when he looks at the fall of World trade centre.

"*Yes, despicable as it may sound, my initial reaction was to be remarkably pleased*" (Mohsin Hamid 2007: 83)

The author shows the struggles of the protagonist's struggles to retain the identity in America in the midst of all the inner conflicts. Changez' smile over the devastation of 9/11 incident directs the protagonist's existence in the immigrant land. This is seen through the statement by Changez when he says...

"*Caught in the symbolism of it all, the fact that someone had so visibly brought America to her knees*" (Hamid 2007: 83)

Muslims of American society are marked with the label of being terrorist is in fact evident as seen as the hidden agenda of the Christian missionary who pulled them into a remarkable title in entire world. Changez represented the Muslim community who dramatically victimized American exploitation. How are Muslims referred as terrorist is a question. The answer is, The Americans who has created an image of the Muslims as terrorists mostly after the collapse of the World Trade Center and thus the entire world also began to see Muslims in a negative light. Edward Said portrays the reality of negative notions of the entire world in his Orientalism

"*Culturalcontestant, and one of its deepest and most recurring images of the other.*"

(Said 1978: 2)

The real truth behind all these negative notions is that all Muslims are not terrorists but unfortunately the terrorist attacks are always spearheaded by some frustrated Muslims. The renowned scholar Michleh.Harts in his book "*The Hundred*" first mentions the name of Prophet Muhammad where his vision of society was peaceful, that all educated people were called Muslims, the religion Islam is the best way to find humanity in the entire world. However, A phobia has gradually been created where people has become intolerant towards the Muslims in almost all parts of the world. Yet America belittles Muslims in every way and try to alienate them in every possible way. Similarly, Changez is the victim of alienated Muslim identity in the western world. The protagonist has in some ways become the representative of the Muslims as a whole where he/they are always under surveillance. Seventeen years after 9/11, Muslims are still '*presumed guilty'* (RNS, SEP, 2018).

2.4 American dream

Everyone has a dream of America. They have a desire to move and settle in America because of the luxuries that America promises to the world. Especially the east (orients) because America provides economic stability, cultural freedom and limitless opportunities for everyone. The world label America as a "developed country" that is wealthy and gives opportunity for the least privileged to survive. Hence, she has attracted more people over the years. America has become a base camp that accommodates people who move from other parts of the world. Immigrants after moving to America usually have the intentions of setting up their career in US also because money and wealth are the first thing dreamers' dreams of Similarly, in this novel *The Reluctant Fundamentalist* Changez, the protagonist has a dream of shifting to America mainly for economic reasons. He got a scholarship to study in Princeton University, New York. This paved a way for him to live in America and additionally, this marked the stepping stone for his dream. He left Pakistan and went to America to pursue further studies. Later, he got job in Underwood Samson Company. He firstly did not expect to get a job because he felt inferior and also he was made to believe that only the efficient ones end up getting the job. But all these were proved to be false after he got into the company. Here, his American dream came true.

"*The area-with its charming bistros, exclusive shops, and attractive women in short skirts walking tiny dogs-felt surprisingly*" (Hamid 2007:56).

When he went to America, he was in awe of the American life and culture.

"*The party was being held at Jim's house in the Hamptons, a magnificent property that made me think of The Great Gatsby. It was beside his beach-on a rise behind a protective ridge of sand dunes and it had a swimming pool*." (Hamid 2007:43)

He compared his life with The Great Gatsby whose life is seen as the perfect example of the luxurious American lifestyle. The novel reflects the politics of ethnicity, national identity and wealthy life. It also deals with post 9/11 issues and American dream in the 20th Century. Gatsby is seen as the wealthiest man who lives in (west egg) New York, near the long Island beach. The place where he lived is also significant because only the wealthy people can afford to live in such locations. Every Saturday he hosts a great party which full of drinks, music and dance. When Hamid attended a party, he remembered the story of Great Gatsby. This is also a part of American dream to live like Gatsby, a billionaire.

Changez meets Erica when he goes to Greece. They fall in love and Changez' American dream comes true again. Most people wishes to marry an American girl. But his dream lasted only got a while and this marked the failure of his American dream.

"*Been indulging in daydreams of a life as Erica's husband; now just those daydreams but the woman herself vanishing before my eyes*" (Hamid, 2007:119)

Even though he knows that Erica has an unforgettable past he never stops her from having daydreams.

"*She is longing for her adolescence with Chris, for a time before his cancer made her aware of impermanence and morality*" (Hamid 2007:129).

She viewed her relationship with Changez as being unfaithful to Chris who passed away a year prior. So, she left him and runs away. At last Changez loses his job and loses his girlfriend at one go. He has love for both his country and women. Like great Gatsby whose American dream paralleled by his love and quest for daisy, Erica shimmers in Changez' life and his American dream, but at last America let him down from everything.

CHAPTER THREE

CHARACTER ANALYSIS

Character analysis is when we evaluate a character's traits, and the role in the story and conflicts they experience when we try to analyse the character and we critically examine by asking questions, and we draw the conclusion. Author describes the character in a greater detail, and we typically know their age, their size, ethnicity and other distinctive physical characteristic that would be pertinent to the story.

3.1 Changez

Changez is the main protagonist of the novel *Reluctant Fundamentalist* who attended Princeton University with a scholarship. He narrates the story of disillusionment in his state with a stranger. Initially, he loved America and had great expectations and even worked at the Underwood Samson firm. To enjoy the newly found high class, when he was employed he tried to act more like an American and says;

"*I learned to cut to the front lines……. And I learned to answer……I Was from New York*"

Through this line we can say Changez putting an attempt to transform himself into an American and believed that he was capable of becoming one. He later gets into a relationship with an American girl named Erica who previously had a boyfriend named Chris .However, in the aftermath of 9/11, he experiences discrimination and racism from an adopted country and was seen as a prime suspect who was considered as a threat not only to America but to the world. His girlfriend had feelings for him but at the same time keeps recalling and remembering her ex boyfriend Chris who we learned passed away. So here, her feelings for Changez are also doubtful. She began to have tendencies of seeing Changez as an exotic foreigner. After all the trauma that followed the 9/11 attack, he feels insecure and the sense of belonging was completely absent. The land of his dreams now turned into a land of nightmare. He in the end returns back to Pakistan with a cold heart and bitter memories. This character is sometimes complicated in a sense he always had mixed emotions about this country America.

3.2 Jim

Jim is a minor character in this novel. Jim is an executive director by profession at Underwood Samson. He is presented as a successful American and serves as a mentor of Changez. When Changez had an interview with Jim, Changez was reminded of how he had only 15 minute to sell himself. He completed the task given by Jim and that impressed him to employ Changez to the firm. Like any typical American

man, Jim hosted a grand party at his place which made Changez to recall the parties hosted by the Great Gatsby. The first impression being of a good one, Jim supports and encourages Changez a lot. Jim never fails to helps and advice Changez. In this sense, He was like a father, a friend and mentor to Changez. Jim in the novel says that he likes Changez because of their similar financial backgrounds but unfortunately after 9/11 Jim too began to view Changez in a negative light. This eventually led Changez to quit his job.

3.3 Erica

Erica was an upper class American woman. She represents the American dream and also plays an important role in this Novel. Erica is introduced to the reader as Changez girlfriend during the time he stayed in America. Erica herself is the representative of his tumultuous relationship with America. Her physical appearance appears to be someone who was called beautiful, smart and popular. As mentioned earlier, She was in a relationship with Changez but was not fully committed to him as she could not completely get over her ex boyfriend who passed away of lung cancer. They no doubt had a very decent relationship until the attack of 9/11. After this incident, their relationship crumbled but in our reading Changez was still in love with her. Sometimes he thinks of her and wanted closure but that was very unlikely to happen. .Hamid draws through the American dream towards the protagonist which he couldn't own it .Changez' life with Erica was a dream though they did not end up together. Erica's world was effected not as much as Changez' because he was rejected both by his girlfriend and America. Both were victims of the trauma, Erica of her past and Changez of his present. His feelings were true and this is evident when he even goes to the extent of asking Erica to assume that he was Chris. Changez keeps recalling his days with Erika and his life in America. Erica lost her mind when was rejected everywhere in the society for being with a Muslim immigrant, this became depressing for and as well as Changez. America refused to give an identity to Changez and he struggled to gain acceptance and also win back Erica which were both a failed attempt.

3.4 The Stranger

The stranger is the one having conversation with Changez at a Lahore Café Anarkali Old Tea shop. When Changez started the conversation with him, he also talked about his personal and professional life with a random stranger. The stranger's identity was not revealed and remains Anonymous. He remains silent and Changez initiate the whole conversation. This is Hamid's way of showing that the stranger was trustworthy but that depends on the reader to perceive what kind of a person the stranger was. The reader can assume the stranger as a spy, a random tourist etc. Hamid has constructed the story in such a way that the reader would try to understand the role of the stranger according to his/her preference.

3.5 Wain Wright

Wain Wright was a close friend and colleague of Changez . It is very evident that they had a very strong bond. Wain Wright was more familiar with the American pop culture compared to Changez and this is one of the reason why he was more tolerant towards America even after being suppressed and considered an outsider. One character that accepts and actually considers Changez as one of his own was Wain Wright, He was the pillar of strength for Changez. Both being non-whites, they came even closer. America and her people see them as outsiders yet they still chose the American life because of the American dream which they could not give up on. Even at Underwood Samson Both of them created a little world of their own. And after the 9/11 attack, The Americans could not tolerate how comfortable they were in that space. Wrain Wright often discussed about cricket with Changez and took pride in the fact that the Pakistani cricket team reigned in the world of sports. Through the relation between Wright and Changez, We are introduced to how a human relation can be built on strong base.

3.6 Chris:

Chris is another minor character of this novel. He was introduced to the reader as Erica's deceased ex boyfriend and also an America. He was never physically present in the picture but the reader only hears about him and his existence in Erica's life once. They grow up together in an apartment and they had no siblings and this made them very close. Chris was a childhood friend of Erica and later they became lovers. Looking back into their lives, when they were fifteen years old they were fond of collecting European comic books which they were obsessed about and even spent time together reading them at home during their leisure time.. Chris was fond of drawing while Erica, Writing. Later they both enrolled in the same college at Princeton University. Chris was however irregular in class because of his health issues. He went for biopsy because of his smoking habit. The obvious result to his death was due to lung cancer. Chris' absence made her feel lonely and depressed. She was barely dedicated nor committed to Chris for the fact that she could not recovery from Chris' death. Even though his character was given less important he becomes the main reason why Erica left Changez. His role was also significant.

CHAPTER FOUR
THEMES

4.1 Alienation

According to Oxford dictionary, the term alienation means the state or experience of being alienated. It is derived from the Latin word Alienato, meaning from the verb Alienate 'estrange' ,which means to snatch, to remove, to avoid etc., in late middle English. The Alienation effect is a translation of German Verfremdunsffekt. Many writers talked about the term alienation in their text. Some of the writers are

"*Man suffers not only from war, persecution, famine and ruin, but from inner problems a conviction of isolation, randomness, meaninglessness in his way of existence*" -Edmund Fuller

As Edmund Fuller told man suffers more in isolation and estrangement which make a person believe that his existence is meaningless. In war, persecution, feminine etc. person can suffer outwardly but if he is suffering of isolation it is very difficult for him to get out of it. We can see that same happening in the Changez character that when he started working in New York most of the times he felt as he is staying in an alienated land. Where he don't feel like sense of belongingness.

"*Alienation is the state of being alienated or estranged from something or somebody; it is a condition of the mind*". -Oxford Dictionary of literary terms

This can be clearly seen when Erica died, Changez as he was very much attached to her that he could not get over the death of her and wanted to go back to his native place. This sense of alienation had made him feel as inferior among the people.

"*Alienation as the state of feeling estranged or separated from ones milieu, work, products of work or self".* -Encyclopedia Britannica

The feeling of getting separated from your homeland may always lead you to a state where you always start thinking about that place, work, product and self. This will lead to a state where you wanted to go back.

"The word alienation is used to convey the emotional tone which accompanies any behaviour in which the person is compelled to act self destructively".

-Lewis Samuel Feuer

Alienation may lead a person to completely take his life off. This will help them to behave harshly with themselves to an extent of killing themselves. Erica loved Chris to an extent that when he died of disease she could not take it and to get rid of the feeling of alienation she stated drugs and goes to an extent that she dies.

"*Most usages of alienation share the assumption that some relationship or connection that once existed that is 'natural', desirable or good has been lost*". -Kenneth Kinston

Here we can see how the relationship between America and Pakistan gets to stake condition. When there was an attack on the twin towers. After the attack Americans started hating Muslims and started looking all of them as a terrorist. Which made the Muslims who are living in America made them insecure in such a way that they wanted to go back to the places from where they came from.

" *Alienation as the proliferation of the It World*".-Martin Buber

Most of the Pakistani's as they felt very insecure in their place even after getting separated from India. They could not find any happiness and thought of migrating to America so that they can live their life as they wanted. Most of the Muslims as they did not wanted live under the people they started migrating to the other countries. And the same thing happened in the novel. Changez the main protagonist left his hometown so that he can get a good life in America.

"*Alienation as a psychological phenomenon, an internal conflict, a hostility felt towards something seemingly outside oneself which is linked to oneself, a barrier erected which is actually no defense but an impoverishment of oneself*". -Sydney Finkelstein

Sydney said it in a proper manner that alienation is an internal conflict, something that happens in a person's mind and not in the outside world which may lead to changes in that person and let them know their love for that place, product, or person will never be gone. And that will change him to an extent that he might never get rid of that feeling.

"To claim that a person is alienated is to claim that his relation to something else has certain features which result in avoidable discontent or loss of satisfaction". -Arnold Kaufman

Erica when she started liking Changez she was always scared that if she do that she will be doing

wrong to Chris. And moreover whenever Erica meets Changez she feels him as Chris. Because of this feeling she can never live her life normally she always had that sense of loss.

Karl Marx talks about the two kinds of Alienation which are,

- Political Alienation
- Economic Alienation

Political alienation is something related to the individual who undergoes a strong sense of estrangement because of the rejection of political parties. "The state does not care about Individual's existence, in a society without communion between people and that individual in his relation to such a state does not experience a feeling of solidarity, he is only able to relate himself to it as an isolated monad, an individual. Man's inner life is divided in world split up in such a way". He says that man's political alienation can be controlled in an absolute power of democracy. Economic alienation is capitalistic mode of production that is to lose the ability to determine life and destiny where we take the responsibility of the others. In order to get away with political alienation we need to firstly get away with the economic alienation.

Many writers like Edmund Fuller, Lewis Samuel Feuer, Kenneth Keniston, Martin Buber, Sydney Finkelstein, Arnold Kaufman and Karl Marx discusses about alienation in a very different manner. They said that man suffers not only due to the repercussions of nation and environment but also when he is living a meaningless life. And the alienation is not only related to the places but also the mental state of mind. If you are living in a place, work, products or self and suddenly you are shifted unwillingly then the disturbances that are created in your mind becomes very difficult for you to accept the sudden changes and somewhere you lose the sense of belongingness from that particular place. Alienation can also happen when the connection or relationship is lost in you. We can analyze Erica's character in Sydney Finkelstein quotation. For Erica there is a conflict in her mind when Chris died of some disease which took a long time for her to get over it. And the sense of losing him has created a feeling of detachment from the country and the family. In the novel she says that she also misses her home. This can be seen in a metaphorical manner that Chris is her home.

In the *The Reluctant Fundamentalist* written by Moshin Hamid, we can see that the protagonist Changez always had the feeling of alienation in him whether he was in Princeton or in New York. Wherever he was, he always felt nostalgic about his homeland and started comparing it with his ambience.

In the text he also says that;

”when I was a child, there were eight of us ,eight cousins, all in the same compound-----a single boundary wall surrounded the plot of land my grandfather left to his sons, you see---and we had between us as many as three dogs and, for a time, a duck”(Hamid 2007:19).

We can compare this line where he thinks how he had shifted his flats very often in New York when he was new to that city and it took a long time for him to settle in that place. Changez, when he went to Erica’s house he felt it as his own home. There are many other context where he started comparing everything with his hometown because he is not able to give up his love for hometown even though he has voluntarily came to the other country. Because of which it took a very long time for him to get adjusted in the new place.

“I had not been to Europe or even swum in the sea---Lahore is, as you know, a ninety minute journey by air from the coast----and so I gave in to the pleasures of being among this wealthy young fellowship”(Hamid 2007:20).

Here Changez says that when he came to Europe for the first time and saw Erica, he started comparing Europe with Lahore. In one of the lines he says that Europe is a free country where people have no limitations but in Lahore people used to have a lot of limitations like liquor and dressing in specific, women have more limitations than man.

“I enjoy the tea in this, the city of my birth, steeped long enough to acquire a rich, dark colour, and made creamy with fresh, full fat milk”(Hamid 2007:15).

By this quote he was talking about how if one person moves from one place to another place not only the place changes but also each and everything changes except the love for their hometown and the most basic one that we notice will be the food which is the basic necessity for everyone. In the south Asian region, people give more importance to food especially Pakistan and India. Where the food is the basic thing and made up of a rich ingredients. And most of the south Asian people are food lovers and when these people shift to other country they will mostly miss the food rather than anything else. In the same way Changez is always a food lover we can see that when he goes to New York and finds a lot of place where he gets his hometown food. This means that one is uprooted from the culture in which he/she is brought up. Therefore, they put an attempt to reconnect with their culture wherever they go. Food is a part of culture, Changez too go to restaurants that serve some Pakistani food.

4.2 Identity Crisis

According to Oxford dictionary "identity crisis" is a period of uncertainty and confusion in which a person's sense of identity becomes insecure, typically due to a change in their expected aims or role in society. The term was coined by German psychologist Erikson.

Who says?

"*A subjective sense as well as observable quality of personal sameness and continuity paired with some belief in the sameness and continuity of same shared world images , As a quality of self – conscious living this can be gloriously obvious in a young person who has found himself his communality. In him we see emerge a unique unification of what is irreversible given—that is, body type and temperament , giftedness and vulnerability , infantile models acquired ideals –with open choices provided in available roles occupational possibilities ,values offered , mentors met , friendship made the first sexual encounters* ".

The Erickson's interpretation of identity which has many factors which contributes to the development of these factors and differ from individual, identity crisis on the other hand it originates of an immigrant which the original identity obtained from his own land and clashes with the identity of new identity in a new land .The second generation will face questions of who they really are from where they came which they are not aware of. Most of the second generation will create an identity not according to their own country but the identity of a new land. A Muslim Pakistani's Identity is shaped with two factors, firstly affiliation and the other is the citizenship of Pakistan then Muslim's life which is governed rules and regulation of Islamic. He is coded in which bound to be followed by his religious so we can say that Muslim is the integral part of that Muslim's identity.

The title of Hamid's Novel *The Reluctant Fundamentalist* which makes use of both terms "Reluctant" and "Fundamentalist" which together can be considered as a identity crisis which is seen in the Novel. A fundamentalist who believes in fundamentalism who understand ever thing in a literal truth, reluctant which shows the reluctant in that position of a fundamentalism

"*At the root of Pakistan's national identity crisis has been the unresolved debate on how to square the state's self- proclaimed Islamic identity with the obligations of a modern nation- state. This has been confounded by an official history that cannot explain the gaping inconsistencies between the claims of Muslim nationalism and the actual achievement of statehood at the moment of the British withdrawal*."
— Ayesha Jalal, The Struggle for Pakistan: A Muslim Homeland and Global Politics in 1947.

In the above statements we can see that Ayesha Jalal as she spoke about how the Islamic identity of modern nation state was always kept as unresolved issue because of which there are still chances

of identity crisis for the people .Claiming the identity after withdrawal from British was on two levels. Firstly the partition was to achieve Islamic identity even after the partition it was a constant and ongoing negotiation between the self-proclaimed Islamic identity and actual achievement of statehood as an Islamic nation. It can be one of the reason of identity crisis. And it also shows that even though they have been working for it for a very long period of time but still they didn't gain what they want.

"*Most people are other people. Their thoughts are someone else's opinions, their lives a mimicry, their passions a quotation*."

— Oscar Wildein

Oscar Wildein what he talked about is clearly shown in the character of Changez when he came to Princeton he did not reveal his identity very clearly he tried to imitate like a white upper class person because if he do it he might be in trouble at a certain point.

"*… the essential precondition for the identity conflict is the status of having a strong personal (and presumably emotional) commitment to two distinct identity components that become incompatible*".

— Roy Baumeister

And also in the novel we can clearly see that how his commitment towards the two identities had always been an internal conflict to him. He completely neither gave up the American identity nor is he completely depended on his own identity.

As we can see in the literature how it explores and reflects the identity of a person. In *The Reluctant Fundamentalist* by Hamid Moshin we can see how Changez has always been in search of creating a new identity. In order to create a new identity he used to hide his old identity. When he came to Princeton there he used to work in three places so that he can earn some money but in the college he used to behave like an upper class person. In real life he is a middle class person instead of revealing that he used act like a rich person. It is clearly shown that his coming to Princeton is to create a new identity and earn money. For him getting a job is the most important thing with which he can create a new Identity of himself, which will help him to get his identity. Even when he met Erica he did not clearly revealed his identity. In this novel identity is not only restricted to a particular person but also the identity of a community, in united states the people used to never accept Muslims as a part of their country and always had a hatred towards them which was clearly shown in the novel. There is an incident which takes place on September 11 2001 where twin towers were collapsed he saw about this in the news and had a silence smile. And this smile can be a sense of revenge that how from past years, Muslims have been suppressed by the white people and treated as terrorist. And here Changez in a way or the other tries to clarify that all Muslims are not terrorist.

"*Princeton made everything possible for me. But it did not, could not, make me forget such things as how much I enjoy the tea in this, the city of my birth*".

It is very clearly shown that we can see the identity loss from the beginning of the text. Identity can also be concerned with cultural norms, values and roles. If we see it in reluctant fundamentalist there will be a complete change in America and Lahore cultures. How in Lahore the people are not set to be free of what they wanted to do but in America it is clearly shown that people are very free and that can be seen through Erica's character. How even she stays in New York when they went for a trip. That whole thing can be seen as how New York is completely different from Lahore.

"*And how different they look from the women of that family sitting at the table beside ours, in their traditional dress.*" (Hamid 2007, 2)

This statement clearly shows how the culture of America and Lahore differs. Changez as we can see that it is very difficult for him to adopt a new culture. For Erica it is easy for her to stay in New York but for Changez as he came from Pakistan it will be very difficult for him to get used to a new place, culture and norms.

4.3 Nostalgia

The term nostalgia is taken from the Greek word in late 18th century which is divided into two parts nostos and algos. Nostos means 'return home' and algos means 'pain'. Which means a sentimental longing or wistful affection for a past or the feeling of homesickness?

"Memory is therefore, neither Perception nor Conception, but a state or affection of one of these, conditioned by lapse of time. As already observed, there is no such thing as memory of the present while present, for the present is object only of perception, and the future, of expectation, but the object of memory is the past. All memory, therefore, implies a time elapsed; consequently only those animals which perceive time remember, and the organ whereby they perceive time is also that whereby they remember."
- Aristotle, *Memory and Reminiscence*, Line 24.

The love or affection for one's own country will be never be taken out of that person. They always remember the past actions that have been happened. Even if the time is lapsed the memory will be never be erased from your mind in the same way the love for your country will always remain the same where are you may go in your life.

"*It is singular how soon we lose the impression of what ceases to be constantly before us. A year impairs, a lustre obliterates. There is little distinct left without an effort of memory, then indeed the lights are rekindled for a moment - but who can be sure that the Imagination is not the torch-bearer?"*
- Lord Byron

Aristotle and Lord Byron talks about nostalgia in a very clear terms that how there will be a lapse of time and what will be left with us will be the memories that we made with that person, thing and place. And we remember these memories for our lifetime and some of the memories will be related to the nation that we belong to. And these memories constantly remind us the love for our own nation. And the feeling of nostalgia can be seen in various terms. For example when you leave your country you will start realizing how much you are related with your country. This can be seen in the Changez character. How after he went to Princeton he started realizing about his love for his nation. And at a point of time where there was attack on the world trade centre then he started questioning his identity that why he is staying in that country. And goes back to his place where he started living his life in his own terms. Erica after she lost Chris nostalgia became a reality to her. In a way she tried a lot to escape out of it but over a period of time she couldn't help it out and started keeping herself surrounded by the people and also took drugs to come out of it. Once Changez and Erica had got intimate but somewhere Erica was very much connected to Chris that she couldn't stay in that for a very long period of time. For Erica Chris is her world and whenever she thought about him she used to feel nostalgia.

In the text he talks about nostalgia,

"*Because I grew up on the other side for half of my life, I was outside the candy store looking in, kid. And in America no matter how poor you are tv gives you a good view. But I was dirt poor. My dad died of gangrene. So I get the irony of paying a hundred bucks for a bottle of fermented grape juice, if you know what I mean".*

"I think of Chris a lot "She said.

"then she said," You miss home." I shrugged. I often did miss home, but in that moment I was content to be where I was."

"So I kind of miss home, too," she said.(Hamid 2007 ;)

If we are talking about our country firstly we start thinking about the culture, customs and tradition of that place. So in *Reluctant Fundamentalist* we can see how Lahore's culture and traditions have been portrayed. Changez as he was very much into hi culture and tradition. When he comes to Princeton he started thinking

about his customs and cultures. Where specifically he talks about the food like tea and jalebi. And then he goes on talking about how the women's of that country used to be and also somewhere he talks about how the people of Pakistan used to drink alcohol illegally. In a quotation he talks about how he grew up seeing candy. And said In America the television tempts people towards everything. And he also says that he was dirt poor and then his father died. Whenever he thinks about his homeland he always think about how his house was and the pet animals that are there in their house. And in the above quotations we can see how he says that he miss his home and also mentions that when he is in a particular place you have to be in that world of sense if you go away you can't come back to the place where you are.

Erica also feels very nostalgic about her life. Here Chris can be seen as a metaphor. We can take Chris as old England. In a quotation Erica said that she also misses her home. Here we can see that missing home here refers to Chris. Chris was suffering from some disease and he dies. Because Erica was neither very close to the country or her family she made Chris as her whole world. So when she lost her she felt like as she lost her whole world. And whenever she thinks about Chris she becomes nostalgia about it and start comparing it.

4.4 Patriotism

"*Patriotism is, fundamentally, a conviction that a particular country is the best in the world because you were born in it....*" -George Bernard Shaw

Most of the people tell that there country is superior in the world because they are born in that particular country and they feel proud about it. By telling that what their country was in the past and what it is in the present.

"*Patriotism is your conviction that this country is superior to all other countries because you were born in it.*" -George Bernard Shaw

As George Bernard Shaw said for every person his country is superior to him because he is born in that country and was there in that country for a very long period of time and also heard and saw about that country he will be always proud about it.in the novel we can see that how patriotic Changez. When he heard about the attack somewhere he felt very unsafe and wanted to go back to his native place. There is an incident where he goes to the Erica house and there he met her parents. When Erica father talked about his community then he got a little uncomfortable when he was talking about and then he makes a statement telling that knowing something from the news and making judgment is a wrong thing and that will lead to a false acquisitions.

"I love it when you talk about where you come from, "she said, slipping her arm through mine, "you be so alive".

Erica at a point of time says that when Changez is talking about his place she was very happy that he is revealing his identity to her without any fear shown towards her.

I am not, of course, an Arab. Nor am I, by nature, gratuitously belligerent chap. But my blood throbbed in my temples, and I called out, "say it to my face, covered not as you run and hide"

Here Changez says that he is not an Arab and not even by nature. My blood flows in the same way as yours and there is nothing to hide about this. If you have something to tell just tell me on my face there is nothing to hide about it. This made him to talk about his identity very fiercely telling that not every Muslim will be migrated from Arab country.

"Time only moves in one direction. Remember that. Things always change."

At a point of time they say that time keeps on going it will never stop for anyone and as the time keeps on going everything changes in our lives. We can also talk about how the Americans always had problems with the Muslim community and they treated them as a terrorist.

"No, I explained Pakistan had pledged its support to the United States, the Taliban's threats of retaliation were meaning less, and my family would be just fine."(Hamid 2007:94)

He secures himself by telling that nothing is going to happen to his family who stays in Lahore. And they will be fine because whatever happens, America will always support Pakistan. They will not let the Taliban's to do anything wrong with the people of Pakistan.

"*Such journeys have convinced me that it is not always possible to restore one's boundaries after they have been blurred and made permeable by a relationship: try as we might, we cannot reconstitute ourselves as the autonomous beings we previously imagined ourselves to be*."

(Hamid 2007:173)

After the twin tower attack they started believing that all of them are the same. Because of that Changez after the attack and Erica death he started to believe that he does not belong to that country anymore and wanted to go back from the place he came from. Only after going back he believed that it was the place where he belongs to and not to America. We can also say that even though he stayed in

America he was never happy over there and the past memories always haunted him and somewhere he is not able to accept the change that he does not belong to that place. And in the text he says that he wanted to be an Islamic republic in his own place. Though he came to study in Princeton somewhere at the same time he wanted to go back. Changez whenever he talks about his country he takes it as a very proud thing. Even when he met Erica he compared her with the women in his own country. And felt that she in a way resembles them though she is completely different from them. In the last quotation we can analyze it in two ways. One is he talks about how his relationship with Erica was and then he says that after she passed away it is very difficult for him to get back to her and it is not possible to do so. The only thing he can do is keep her in his memories so that he can think about her whenever he want which might help him to get out of it in a way and move forward in his life. Another one is it can also be taken as he was talking about America that once he came back from that place it was impossible for him to go back to that place and the memories that he has created, not all of them were of happy memories but bitter ones which changed his life completely and led him to come back to his own country. Changez not only talked about his customs and traditions of that country, he also talked about how the government works in his country saying that how alcohol consumption is banned in the country and still people used to get it and drink illegally. And he also talks about how the women were asked to wear their dress in a particular tradition and also were asked to follow certain rules and regulations. He also says they go for trips very rarely because the climatic condition of Lahore is completely different from America. Lahore is very sunny that people will not be able to endure the heat and humidity while going on trips. And once he said that when he was with Erica that he never swam in the sea and while saying this he remembers that by crossing it he can reach Lahore very easily and talks about the lives of middle class people like him.

CHAPTER FIVE
SIGNIFICANCE OF THE TITLE

5.1 The dilemma of accepting the "Other"

The politics of creating the "Other" is one of the major issues that is discussed in this dissertation. The notion of the "Orient" which is a term used to refer to the east or non-whites and the" Occident" is a term used to refer to the west or the whites which was initially created during the colonization period to distinguish between these two categories (the colonizer and colonized) . The world and human relations are understood in terms of binaries. The fact that binaries exist forms the absolute and the "Other". For instance, for a group of people who share the same beliefs, norms, territory, tradition etc. begin to see themselves as the absolute and anyone who is excluded from that particular social zone is considered the "Other". The "Other" is always seen as inferior and associated to terms like oppression, marginalized section, suppression and so on, and this leads them to a state of alienation and isolation. Hence the concept of the "Other" finds relevance in the novel *The Reluctant Fundamentalist* through the protagonist Changez who was made to feel like an inferior being after the 9/11 attack. In post-colonial context, It is the West and the East. But in this context, We can understand America as the absolute figure (The Occident) while muslims as the "Other" (the orient) . Edward Said in his essay *Orientalism* discusses about how the other is constructed through the West's imagination and anything that is created out of imagination is not the reality. Similarly, the hate and phobia against the Muslim has been generalised meaning people see every Muslim as terrorists but it is an imagined notion. Hence, The reality differ from such constructed ideas and thoughts. All these happen also because of cultural conditioning. In relation to this, Keeping aside America for a while and taking the example of the June 4th 2017 Van and knife attack that happened in South London where several people were killed. The aftermath of this incident was shocking as the members of Muslim communities came out on the streets with billboards that read *"ISIS will lose" and "#TURNTOLOVE*" and joined the rest of the community to show their solidarity and protested against terrorism. Hence, through such little examples, we get the picture that not all Muslims are terrorists and it is wrong to generalise it in that manner or make false accusations against them with imagined constructed ideas.

Even in the novel *The Reluctant Fundamentalist*, the protagonist Changez faces similar situations in America. He initially moved to America with a scholarship that helped him get enrolled in the Princeton University and later he decides to remain in America and get a job for mainly economic stability and second is to gain recognition among his fellow associates. Changez falls in love with an American girl named Erica but their time together was cut short as her feelings and intentions still seemed blurry and

unclear. She treats Changez well when they began seeing each other but her constant flashbacks and memories of her deceased boyfriend Chris held her back from continuing their relationship. Changez began to drift away from her gradually though he still had feelings for her. The fact that she continued to constantly lived in her past reminiscing her days with Chis made Changez feel left out and as an outsider. At one point, He even asks her to assume and pretend that he is Chris (Hamid, *The Reluctant Fundamentalist* : 105) Through this, We see how she always kept him in the outer circle even if they have been together for some time. Erica also was under social pressure when she was questioned for being with a Muslim. The situation became so crucial that every move of the Muslims were monitored.

Changez' mentor Jim was fond of him and they formed a relatively good relation between them. Changez is seen as a sincere and professional at his workplace. However, after the incident, He was categorised as "Muslim" which the word was enough to gain negative gaze and comments on them. The label of being a Muslim made them lost privileges and opportunities that blocked them from developing in any sphere. His colleagues feared him being around them like he was a spy for Muslims are a terrorist himself. His workplace was not a healthy space for him any longer and his break up with Erica completely detached him from the place he once dreamt of.

On a broader sense of understanding this title, we see how Islamophobia has been created sharply after the 9/11 attack. The Muslims were seen as a threat and never welcomed in any social space after this incident took place. September 11, 2001 is greatly regarded as one bleak day that occurred in the history where the terrorist group attacked the twin towers. This incident was marked as a change in the lives of the Muslims as America and the world began to view them with a whole new perspective which was obviously negative. Women retired from wearing their headdresses as they fear that harm would be inflicted on them, while men too began to shave off their beard to blur their identity. The protagonist's mother in one part asks him to shave off his beard. We can understand this in one sense i.e., it could be because she was aware of the consequences that could happen to her son in an anti Muslim country because this story in the novel discusses about the life of Changez after the 9/11 attack. In the midst of chaos and suspicion, Changez' friend Wain Wright also tried to warn him by giving him a friendly advice and says ..... *"Look, man, I don't know what's up with the beard but I don't think it's making you mister popular around here*"..... *(Hamid, The Reluctant Fundamentalist: 130*). Wain Wright was non-white but more attached to American culture and therefore, He was aware of the repercussions of being a Muslim and asked Changez to get rid of his beard as the beard is one feature that can easily distinguish the Muslim from the rest of the men folk.. Politicians during and post 9/11 attack went on promising to eradicate terrorism and this became the main agenda for their campaign. America became intolerant of the "Other" whom we refer it to the Muslims in this context. Some sensible Americans may understand that not all Muslims were terrorists

but even then they too were in a dilemma because of all the terrorist attacks and activities that were initiated by Muslims. After the incident, Immigration policies were revised thoroughly and national security were more strict especially when it comes to Muslims. In one incident, Changez was made to strip half naked at the airport for the obvious reason that he was a Muslim and belonged in the "Other" category.....("*At the airport, I was escorted by armed guards into a room where I was made to strip down to my boxer shorts--.....")(Hamid, The Reluctant Fundamentalist : 74*) People in Changez' life except his colleagues and the society did not fear him or monitored him and rather they accepted him regardless of his identity as a Muslim. He moved away from his hometown to a place which has now become his country's enemy. This enemy county see them as the "Other" and back home, they also see this country as the "Other" so who can really say who the "other" is and who is not is a question. But as far as this study is concerned, the Muslims undergo difficulty in gaining acceptance. As Muslim population rises, It has become an issue for people to decide whether to accept them or reject them. The present scenario is now the world vs. the Muslims.

CHAPTER SIX
CONCLUSION

6.1 Summary of the dissertation

This dissertation is under the course of diasporic literature. In diasporic literature, it often discusses issues about the experiences of a person who lives in a geographical space which is not his/her "Home". This group of people gets displaced for various reasons like cultural, political or economic conflicts etc. The term 'Diaspora" can be broadly used across context and applicable in subjects like sociology, cultural studies and political science. A diaspora undergoes experiences like anxiety which is found in the first generation diaspora and in case of the second and third generation diaspora, they experience assimilation. Whichever way, a diaspora always becomes a victim of identity crisis accompanied by nostalgic flashbacks. It is often said that human beings are social animals and therefore becomes obvious that there is a need for human beings to interact and form a social bond. This becomes a difficult task for diaspora because he/she is uprooted from his own land and is constantly considered an "outsider" or "refugee" who has no home of his own. He/she lives somewhere in the middle when he is not regarded as one of the "insider" in his land nor the place in which he is settled. This leads to identity crisis where he has no culture, no home and most importantly no stable identity to identify himself. He/she is in this sense lost at all times where acceptances comes to him gradually or never gain acceptances and recognition. And because of this obvious reason, many diaspora groups are putting much effort to achieve impacts on a higher pedestal by voicing out on matters that are related to their origin or ancestral homeland.

There are various kinds of diaspora. Some of which are Victim Diaspora where a group or person is banished from their homeland for reasons like genocide, conquest or exiles. Trade Diaspora are often of migrating for trade purposes. Imperial diaspora are those who shift to another land that is conquered by their country or nation and enjoys privileged because of their ties with the authority. Then comes the labour diaspora which can be understood as indentured slaves or laborers who were captured during the time of colonization or other ways of invasions. Labour diaspora is an unwilling act because they are forcefully taken away from their lands to render their service to the one in the power. *Changez,* the protagonist in the novel *The Reluctant Fundamentalist* by *Mohsin Hamed* moves to America from Lahore Pakistan in search of a better life. He initially went with the help of a scholarship but later finds a job and even falls in love. The act of his migration was not forceful and hence, he cannot be termed under victim diaspora but rather can be called an *"exile*" for the fact that he left his homeland and now lives in a foreign land.

There is a close relation between Nationalism and exile. Due to internal conflicts and variation in Ideologies, Religious beliefs, Cultural differences, different political ideas leads to the segregation of society into two groups i.e. The nationalist and the exiles. The nationalist becomes the absolute figure who holds the majority group and the other group comprises of exiles (the minority). The nationalist having power and authority becomes extremely patriotic and can also be labelled as *"Fanatics*". No doubt they have a strong base with no issues of identity or experience anxiety but they also have a drawback which is being *intolerant* against other multi-cultural groups who do not belong to their social category. While on the other hand, the minority which consist of exiles, refugees etc. always feel intimidated by the majority. Considering their background of multi ethnicity, this group may have lost their identity but they are tolerant towards "outsiders". Hence, *Edward Said* in his essay "*Reflections of exile"* suggest that the nationalist should be more protective and tolerant towards the exiles and co-exist in harmony instead of pushing them to a marginalized state where they become wanderers and homeless. In the same essay, *Edward Said* discusses the impacts of exile on a diaspora. Their experiences are all the time filled with bitter memories and they are always in a dilemma, unable to make out which place to call "Home" because they do not feel a sense of belonging in neither their ancestral homeland nor the place they currently live in. They are always accompanied by anxiety, assimilation and lost. When one talks about exiles, one always associate them to terms like 'alienation', 'uprooted', 'identity crisis', 'isolation' etc. Simone Weil says that to be rooted is the most essential need of the human soul but it is also the least recognized. So if one is uprooted from his identity, one of the most basic and important need of a human soul is not fulfilled and this becomes problematic.

American Dream as we understand is the desire to move to America which is seen as the land of opportunities. Many immigrants from all over the globe has moved to America when their lives seems bleak in their own country. There could be various reasons to why immigrants shift to America but mostly because of the promised job opportunities where it could pave a way for them to lead a stable life with economic stability. Looking back in history, It is not only the modern immigrants who has a dream of moving to America but back in the Puritan times dating back to 16^{th} and 17^{th} century, a group of religious reformers drifted away from the England church in search of a place that allows them to propagate and freely worship according to their liking and convenience. And after a journey, this group landed in America. So the point here is that even the people from Ancient times have been seeing America as a land that provides. Similarly, the protagonist in the novel moved to America not only to study but decides to seek a job and work there. Another classic example is the Great Gatsby by F. Scott Fitzgerald which reflects the luxurious life of an American billionaire Mr. Gatsby. It depicts the life of Gatsby who rose from rags to riches after returning back to America from war. It signifies that even a humble soldier like Gatsby can turn

into a billionaire in America. Metaphorically, this shows how promising America is. When we analyse the situation of the protagonist Changez, He initially liked living and working in America. He enjoyed his elite status and even fell in love with a girl named Erica who also plays a significant role in his life but the incident of 9/11 changed his life. His favourable life was shattered after this incident took place. Like any other exiles experiences he too faces great humiliation and discrimination because of his cultural origin. He may be uprooted from his ancestral homeland but he was always attached to the fact that he was a Muslim. After the 9/11 attack, The Muslims faced great difficulty to gain acceptance in society as they were generalized as "terrorists" by the whole world. This notion was propagated by the Occident (The west). In *Edward Said's* essay "*Orientalism*", it discusses the idea of how occident and the orient functions in relation to one another and the conflict that arises between these two notions. Differences arise because one holds the centre stage and the "other" is suppressed in many sense. Both have a history of their own but it is history, vocabulary, particular ways of thought that has contributed to the emergence of these two. The occident (the west) created an identity of superiority over the orient (the east). To the west, the east became the "other" and completely constructed from the west's point of view. Occident being the absolute has constructed the orient based on imagination and this is not correct because orient has a land as point of reference and so the reality differs from this "idea". What the west constructs is what the world perceives. Similarly, In the novel "*The Reluctant Fundamentalist*", the protagonist becomes the "Other" because he represents the Muslim community who was seen as a threat to the society after 9/11 attack in 2001. But the point is that, the superpower assuming the Muslims as the other and labelling them is similar to how the orient and occident functions. The presumed notion of Muslims being terrorists is also a contracted idea because in this way, All Muslims are categorized in a generalized manner. All these ideas were created to promote *Islamophobia* where some kind of discourse and behaviour is constructed to express feelings of hostility and violence towards Muslims and Islam. In the recent Pulwama attack that occurred on 14th February, 2019, It was an incident of horrific experience where a lot of Indian soldiers were killed and the bloodshed was unimaginable. The mastermind of this terrorist attack was Muslim from the Pakistan side of the border. The point is that the people were divided based on religion that constructed the idea of the "Other". The India-Pakistan issue has become an endless dispute where it is seen as a competition to how one side can attack the other.

The backbone of the Islamic group, al-Qaeda which is a group of terrorist and the militants joined hands together and planned to attack the twin towers of the world trade centre, New York on September 11, 2001. Their mission was accomplished and the building collapsed in a single shot. The twin towers consist 110 floors, but the attack made it seem like the massive towers were not difficult to destroy. The people in the twin towers were helpless and in the midst of all the chaos, the only view people witnessed were clouds of dust and smoke.

The aftermath of 9/11 incident was horrible for Muslims because the Americans began to see every Muslims as terrorists. The power politics is evident here because America being a super power becomes the absolute figure and represents the Orient (West). Therefore, America has the power to manipulate the minds of the people where the rest of the world too began to associate terrorism to Muslims. Massive terrorist attacks and mass school shootings have been taking place often in different parts of the world but particularly in America. Under all the suspicions and false accusations against the Muslims, unfortunately it always happens to be the Muslims who initiate these deadly activities. In the novel, Changez a Muslim came to American in search of good education, job and career. Initially, His presence in America was almost unnoticed and undisturbed. He even began feeling one among them. But after the world trade center attack Changez was constantly under surveillance as a suspect. Being a Muslim became more like a curse than a blessing for all the accusations and suppression upon them. The protagonist was originally from Pakistan which is seen to be from the world of the Orient (East). "It hurts him a lot. Reluctantly, the first allowed himself to be worth it. 'Fucking Arab', he said. I am not, of course, an Arab.". When he walks in Underwood Samson, one fellow associate calls him an Arab. This, we assume that it could be because of his physical appearance. Here, Hamid defends himself and says that every Muslim are not a terrorist nor Arab. After the 9/11 attack, America has lost all hopes and trust in Muslims. On a broader outlook, The Muslims who are originally from the east is seen as the "Other". Hence, we assume that America could no longer tolerate the outsiders firstly because they are immigrants who migrated from foreign land to gain benefits from America and secondly, because America was not keen to entertain any outsider who were involved in destroying her instead of contributing to her betterment. Later in the novel, we see that Hamid plans to go back to Pakistan instead of working under the Americans who suppressed him and treats him as an unwanted and uninvited guest. In present times, we see that the Anti-Muslim movement has triggered the Muslims to indulge in unwanted activities because we assume that this maybe one of their way of expressing their angst against all the accusations loaded on them.

6.2 Limitation of this dissertation

The information and data for this dissertation was thoroughly studied and collected with reference to various articles which have been presented by other academicians. Our primary source of work was extracted from the novel *The Reluctant Fundamentalist* by Mohsin Hamid. No field work as such was done. However, Reference to Edward Said's two essays "Orientalism" and "Reflections of exile" was extensively employed with relation to the text that was accessible to us. Library books were also used for basic reference work. There may be various perspectives of this novel but this dissertation mainly focused

on the conditions of the Muslims after the 9/11 incident and focused on issues like anti-Muslim movements that lead to accusations of Muslims as terrorists. In this sense, it works on a sympathetic level for Muslims and how they experience mental exile as they are alienated from society. It also focuses on discussing the themes of diaspora literature found in the novel.

6.3 Scope for future research

This dissertation has raised concerns on the Muslim's situation in present times and how they were before and after the horrific incident of 9/11. One can explore the themes of patriotism with relation to diaspora writing. Also America has a strong base of military system and advancement in Capitalism. Hence, the terrorists attacking the two strong bases on 9/11 can be studied in a deeper perspective, meaning 9/11 is the emergency helpline number and ironically they chose to attack the twin towers and the Pentagon on 9/11 and not any other day, which made America helpless even after having the reputation of an advanced and developed country. Therefore the 9/11 narrative can also be studied for further research. Additionally, the character *Erica* in the novel constantly longing for her ex-boyfriend Chris can be studied in the metaphorical sense with relation to *Anne Bradstreet's* poem "*Dialogue between old England and New England*" where even after moving to America, New England talks of the glory of Old England once upon a time.

6.4 Achievement of the study

Firstly, we were introduced to how a dissertation is written and learned how research works are done. Secondly, we were able to employee the concepts from various fields of study which were previously learnt and related these concepts to the particular text which was assigned to us.

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